

Message Text

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SRUSASGUK LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057028

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI

SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY
WORKING GROUP 3 ON TANK GUN AMMUNITION (AC/297-WG/3)

REFS: A. USNATO 1239, DTG 071826Z MAR 77; B. STATE 041168,
DTG 240110Z FEB 77; C. STATE 055232, DTG 120041Z MAR 77

1. WE MUST REPEAT OUR OBJECTIONS TO PARAGRAPH 17 (AS
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MODIFIED) AND PARAGRAPH 20 (REVISED) AS FOLLOWS:

A. WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPH 17, THE U.S. OBJECTS TO THE
APPLICATION OF THE WORD QTE INTERIM UNQTE TO THE M735
105MM APFSDS ROUNDS. AS STATED IN PREVIOUS GUIDANCE
(REF B) QTE THE U.S. EXPECTS TO PRODUCE THE M-735 FOR ITS
OWN INVENTORY UNTIL THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE XM774 HAS

REACHED A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION. AT THAT TIME, M-735 PRODUCTION WILL BE PHASED OUT AND XM744 PRODUCTION WILL BE PHASED IN. THE XM744 WILL BE BALLISTICALLY MATCHED TO THE M-735 AND THEREFORE FULLY INTEROPERABLE. UNQTE. THE U.S. WAR RESERVE OF APFSDS 105MM AMMUNITION WILL CONSIST OF M-735 AND M774.

B. WITH REFERENCE TO PARAGRAPH 20, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT

FOUR DIFFERENT 120MM WEAPONS WILL EXIST IN THE NATO FORCE STRUCTURE BY 1990:

- FRG 120MM SMOOTHBORE FIRING FIXED AMMUNITION
- UK L-11 120MM RIFLED BORE FIRING SEPARATE LOADED AMMUNITION
- UK 120MM IMPROVED RIFLED BORE FIRING FIXED AMMUNITION
- FRENCH 120MM SMOOTHBORE FIRING FIXED AMMUNITION

2. INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN THE 120MM AMMUNITION WITH THE TWO RIFLED WEAPONS WILL EXIST ONLY AT THE MANUFACTURING FACILITY LEVEL AND NOT IN COMBAT. THUS, INTEROPERABILITY IN THE TRUE SENSE OF THE WORD WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED.

3. THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT U.S. MISSION NATO REAFFIRM THE U.S. POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE ABOVE POINTS.

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